Elk Point REVIEW

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Tuesday, January 6, 2009

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Reeve at large petition deemed insufficient

By Janice Huser
Review Contributor

Although nearly 700 names were submitted from electors across the County of St. Paul, a petition regarding the issue of electing a reeve at large was deemed insufficient, according to the rules set out in the Municipal Government Act.

On Dec. 23, County of St. Paul council held a special meeting to discuss primarily the petition that was received on Nov. 25. The petition requests council to pass a bylaw which would change the current system where elected councillors choose who amongst them is the reeve, to a system similar to the Town of St. Paul were electors directly vote for a reeve.

"According to the MGA requirements, the petition is deemed insufficient," said Acting CAO Tim Mahdiuk, at least Tuesday's special meeting. Mahdiuk explained that after going through the document and seeking legal advice, only 478 names on the petition were deemed sufficient.

(Continued on Page 5)

Vicki Brooker photo

A bearded bagpiper led the parade of weary paddlers under the Elk Point Bridge to the new river campsite viewing deck when the 14-canoe David Thompson Bicentennial Brigade arrived to a warm welcome by area residents on May 17. The brigade, which included Thompson's sixth-generation descendant, Lavern Thompson, re-created the explorer's historic 1808 trip to Fort William to report that he had found a navigable route through Howse Pass and had established trade on the western slopes of the Rocky Mountains.

A sidekick may not be just a sidekick, the villain discovers in a surprise ending to "The Saloonkeeper's Daughter," the 2008 dinner theatre presentation.

Looking back through the pages of 2008

As another year comes to an end, we flip back through the pages of the past 52 issues, on our yearly trip down memory lane. Here's the news that made the headlines in...

January

With three-quarters of their executive having served the maximum term allowed for in the bylaws, E;l Point and District Chamber of Commerce was on the hunt for a new executive. Town council got off to an early start on 2008, with a Sunday meeting eight days ahead of the regular meeting date to accommodate everyone's schedules.

'Free reading' took on new meaning in Elk Point when Elk Point Municipal Library Board made a bold move and axed library membership fees in a drive to increase library usership. Youth issues from bullying to motivation to drug and alcohol use were a continued focus for the Community Advisory Policing Committee,

A wealth of new ideas were put forward for Christmas Extravaganza 2008 as the 2007 Extravaganza committee and volunteers wrapped up with an appreciation evening. Planning got underway to welcome the David Thompson Bicentennial Canoe Brigade, scheduled to visit Elk Point on the May long weekend.

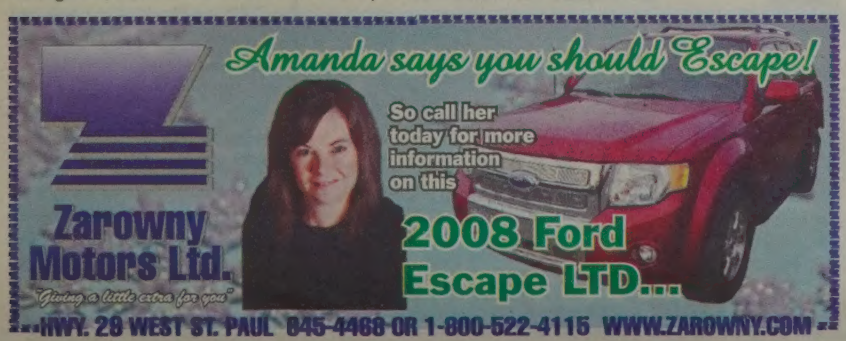
Elk Point Oilmen's Association pioneer Allan Frankiw was named the 2008 Oilman of the Year at the banquet which was part of the 25th Annual Elk Point Oilmen's Bonspiel. Leonard Gadowski skipped the 'spiel's winning rink for the fourth time in five years.

February

Twenty-three of 25 Grade 12 students made it through a raging snowstorm to write Social Studies departmental exams, the final exams of the first semester at F. G. Miller High School, with the rest of that school and Elk Point Elementary taking an impromptu midwinter vacation as buses were canceled due to clogged roads. A need to improve lighting and save energy was the major concern for the A. G. Ross Arena Operating Committee, as they struggled to pay $6,000 to $7,000 power bills to keep the facility operating.

Plans for Canada Day got off to an early and enthusiastic start, with the committee agreeing that they were prepared to add new events to the line-up, provided sufficient volunteer assistance could be found. F. G. Miller High School introduced a new honour roll format in which only students with 80 per cent or higher in all their core subjects would qualify for recognition.

(Continued on Page 2)



Back through the pages of 2008

(Continued from Front Page)

Over 300 signatures on a petition presented to town council asked for more recreational opportunities, ranging from bike trails to a water park, for Elk Point's children. Alberta Progressive Conservative candidate Ray Danyluk opened his Elk Point campaign office with a capacity crowd of supporters on hand to wish him well in the March 3 election.

Elk Point Regional Allied Arts Society was "up and running," according to president Don Conrad, as he and society secretary Deanna Easthope proudly displayed the artist's concept for the new Allied Arts Centre. Elk Point Chamber of Commerce turned lemons to lemonade at their annual meeting, changing the bylaws to allow the existing executive to stay in place despite their completion of two terms in office.

March

Election forums drew answer-seeking crowds in the days leading up to the provincial election. The Iron Horse Trail was is seen as a "model of community cooperation" and has won numerous awards on its way to becoming a major tourist attraction, North East MuniCorr's administrative coordinator Mary Ann Price told town council just days before Elk Point TrailRiders Snowmobile Club's antique snowmobile show brought a large crowd to the Elk Point staging area.

Ray Danyluk was ready for a third term as MLA for Lac La Biche – St. Paul after a resounding victory gave the Alberta Progress-ive Conservatives a 72-seat majority in the provincial Legislature. Elk Point Skating Club members portrayed Disney greats in their annual skating showcase.

Elk Point Avalanche hosted the Peewee 'D' version of the Battle of Alberta, the provincial championships, with the Calahoo Chiefs downing the Bow Island Rebels in the final. Town council agreed to revive a staff position scratched off the lineup several councils earlier, that of recreation director, the move coming in the wake of the petition presented by residents eager to see more recreational opportunity for youngsters in the community.

Elk Point Chamber of Commerce declared they were serious about their train station project as they added the final details to their grant application and hired Dave McRae as project manager. Over 100 junior high talents from eight schools across the school division were showcased at F. G. Miller High School, including everything from monologues to drama to music, while older actors from the Elk Point Choral Society and Friends completed their nine-sold-out-show run of "The Saloon Keeper's Daughter" at the Elks Hall.

April

Elk Point town council agreed to get on board for the Elk Point Chamber of Commerce train station, committing a $30,000 cash donation over three years and approximately an equal in-kind donation , including installation of water and sewer lines to the site. The Community Advisory Policing Committee welcomed the Elk Point RCMP Detachment's newest member, Cpl. Brad Lazicki, who had returned to his home town after more than two decades. Elk Point Peewee Avalanche coach John Quinney presented the Alex Kurash Memorial trophy to Dakota Amyotte, a first-year player whose coachability, improvement in skills and positive attitude fulfilled the criteria for the award.

Elk Point Volunteer Fire Department was praised by representatives of three levels of government at the fifth annual Firefighters' Ball, for their efforts in keeping the community safe, with MLA Ray Danyluk presenting a long service award to Lyle Frisby for his 18 years of dedication to the department. The Buffalo Trail barrel racers and team ropers wound up their winter series with the presentation of awards.

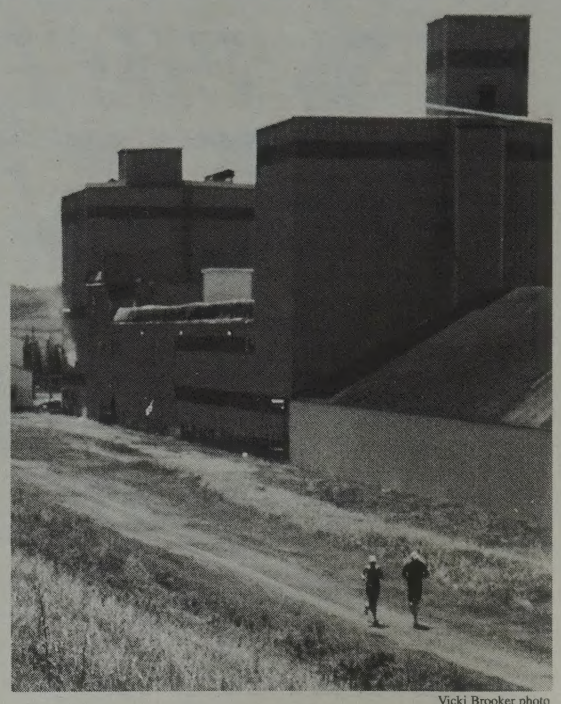
Three members of the Elk Point Elks Lodge were honoured for a combined century of service, with charter member Ed Gregoraschuk marking 45 years, Walter Jendruck 30 years and Lawrence Pidluzny 25 years at their annual installation of officers, where Don Pilisko was installed as Exalted Ruler. St. Paul Education Regional Division trustees voted to join the No Child Without MedicAlert initiative, which would complement existing school emergency plans to create a safe environment for students.

The mandate of Elk Point's new economic development committee would be determined with input from its members, who were to be named shortly, said Mayor Parrish Tung. The chamber focused on the community's tourism potential after hearing reports from Bob Bezpalko, who attended the Growing Rural Tourism conference in Camrose.

Elk Point Ukrainian Dance Club celebrated spring at their 29th annual Spring Concert, with former member Laryssa Cochrane returning as a guest performer and former member Kirsty Lindquist serving as mistress of ceremonies. Elk Point RCMP were seeking the public's help in solving the attempted abduction of a nine-year-old girl from her back yard.

May

Local entrepreneur Melanie Poulin announced her intention to establish a large daycare centre that would care not only for infants and preschoolers, but also offer after-school programs for older children. Representatives of North East MuniCorr finally had good weather for their tour of Alberta's Iron Horse Trail, which had been postponed earlier due to inclement weather and trail conditions. Don Schultz was appointed chair of the new economic development committee, with other appointees including Cliff Quist, Brent Becker, Rod Randall, Leanne Drielick, Lorne Young, Sandra Bishop, Sharon Smith, Sandy Smith and Jonny Nielsen. Town Coun. Dwayne Yaremkevich and county Coun. Tom Kurek.



Vicki Brooker photo

Runners pound down the Iron Horse Trail past Canadian Salt's Lindbergh works in the first-ever Riverland Adventure Challenge, which also involved canoeing on the North Saskatchewan and biking on the Iron Horse Trail, before returning to their starting point at Fort George and Buckingham House.

Elk Point Pathfinders, Girl Guides, Brownies and Sparks joined numerous community volunteers to give Elk Point and the route to the river park a thorough spring cleaning in preparation for the arrival of the David Thompson Bicentennial Brigade. Chamber of commerce president Sandy Smith had plenty of ideas for added attractions to bring more people to town for the Elk Point Auto Club's annual show and shine.

The mill rate dropped between 10.1 and 39.6 per cent, but most tax bills wouldn't, because of changes in assessment, town council revealed as they passed the year's mill rate bylaw. The town had a small year-end surplus in 2007, even after transferring more than $525,000 to reserves and capital fund. Elk Point 4-H Multi Club continued the community's clean-up efforts with their annual roadside blitz.

May long weekend saw history brought to life as the David Thompson Bicentennial Brigade came to town, portaging one of 14, 24-foot voyageur canoes up Main Street after a welcome ceremony at the new river park, en route to the A. G. Ross Arena where an evening of food and fur-trade-style fun for Thompson descendant Lavern Thompson, his fellow travelers and an enthusiastic community. The following day, members of the Brigade joined in the fun of the Fur Factor Challenge at Fort George and Buckingham House. Elk Point Community Choir added the presentation of $20,000 to the Allied Arts Society to the program of music at their annual spring concert.

June

Speed and shine starred on Auto Show day as baby crawling and baby buggy races were added to the fun, and Lloydminster resident Larry Nordquist's pearly-white 1940 Ford coupe won People's Choice, Show and Oldest Vehicle trophies. Robyn Ockerman showed the grand champion steer and her younger brother Tyler the reserve at the Elk Point 4-H Achievement Day, where judge Mac Creech declared both "very meaty, money-making steers."

It was a time to remember for Heinsburg's Class of 2008, as Becky Quinney and Kelsey Castor were joined by family and friends to celebrate the conclusion of their high school years. Twenty teams of golfers swung for STARS at the annual Elk Point Emergency Services golf tournament, where the Elk Point Golf and Country Club team recorded the low score.

(Continued on Page 7)

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Table Rental: $100.00 investment
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February 27th – 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
February 28th – 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
St. Paul Recreation Center

Registration due date is January 23rd, 2009
Call 780-227-2240

For More Info
Drop by 5006-50th Ave, St. Paul, AB

YOUR WELLNESS IS OUR GOAL!

Support for Santas Anonymous

Susan Frisby of Elk Point Community Lions gratefully accepted assistance for the 2008 Santas Anonymous program from (above) Elk Point Community Choir representative Deanna Easthope, who presented a cheque for $140 along with food and gift donations collected at the choir's Christmas Concert. At right, Frisby accepts a $600 donation from North East Alberta Real Estate Board members Don Conrad of Elk Point Realty, Shirley Harms of Coldwell Banker Chinook City, Sharon and Ron Smith and Larry Demchuk of Elk Point Realty

Photos submitted.

Photo Submitted

Loris Kozina, Lilian McLaughlin and Rhonda Berg were honoured with awards recognizing 20 years of service at Heritage Lodge.

Heritage Lodge celebrates Christmas

By Heather Paquette
Activity Coordinator

Heritage Lodge had its annual Christmas party on Friday, Dec. 12. Many relatives and longtime friends gathered to celebrate.

Mayor Parrish Tung brought greetings from the M. D. of St. Paul Foundation, Coun. Bernice Capjack brought greetings from the Town of Elk Point. We had a fantastic meal, and were entertained by Western Sound. Santa and Mrs. Claus dropped by to give all of the good boys and girls treats.

A silent auction raised funds for the community van expenses.

The door prize of a cookie bouquet was won by Charmaine Martelle. The 50/50 was won by Irene Quinney. Allen Smith won the snowman with shovel, Irene Quinney won the Christmas tree and Ken Pinder the cookie bouquet. Poinsettias were won by Marian Zack and Olga Musijowski. Barry Yurkowski won the wine and the holder to go with it.

Staff recognition awards were also given out. Twenty years of service awards went to Lilian McLaughlin, Rhonda Berg and Loris Kozina. Rose Shymkiw and Marion Zack were recognized for 10 years of service and five-year awards recognized Lavinia Charlton, Brenda Diesel and Leona Peters.

Marie Lake safe from oilsands development

By Nicole Garner
Review Contributor

Marie Lake residents and cottage owners had a little something extra to celebrate this holiday season.

Just before Christmas, they received letters from Osum stating that the company is no longer interested in drilling for oil under the lake.

"It was the best Christmas gift we could receive," said Donald Heigh.

Marie Lake residents mobilized in 2007 after they found out Osum planned to conduct seismic testing on the lake, the first step towards a project that would have entailed drilling underneath the lake for oil. The residents protested at the Legislature, held rallies and embarked on a letter writing campaign to get the province to revoke the licence that was issued to allow the seismic testing.

Then MLA Denis Ducharme spoke out against the government's decision to issue the licence and Premier Ed Stelmach decided to overturn that decision and eventually to revoke the company's mineral rights.

The fight didn't end there, however. For the last year, residents have been waiting to hear about the results of an appeal Osum filed in regards to the government's decision. It was initially delayed due to the spring provincial election.

Osum's letter, however, makes it clear the company has no intention of pursuing development at Marie Lake.

"In the first half of 2007, Osum strongly believed our technology would be accepted as an environmentally safe way to unlock a valuable resource under Marie Lake. What we did not understand, and what we have since learned, is that sometimes it doesn't matter how good your technology is. Sometimes it's not a conversation people are willing to have," the letter reads. "Not understanding that was a mistake on our part. Having said that, we would like people to know that Marie Lake is the past for Osum. Our leases have been cancelled, and we have moved on to our new project – the Taiga project."

Marie Lake is located northwest of Cold Lake and is popular with fishing enthusiasts, campers and cottagers.

Weight Loss in 2009?
TOPS can help!
FREE information meeting in January
Tuesday at 5:15 - 6:30
Further Ed Portable
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Elk Point, Alberta
Information: Sherry Smith
780-724-3302

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Editorial

Some encore!

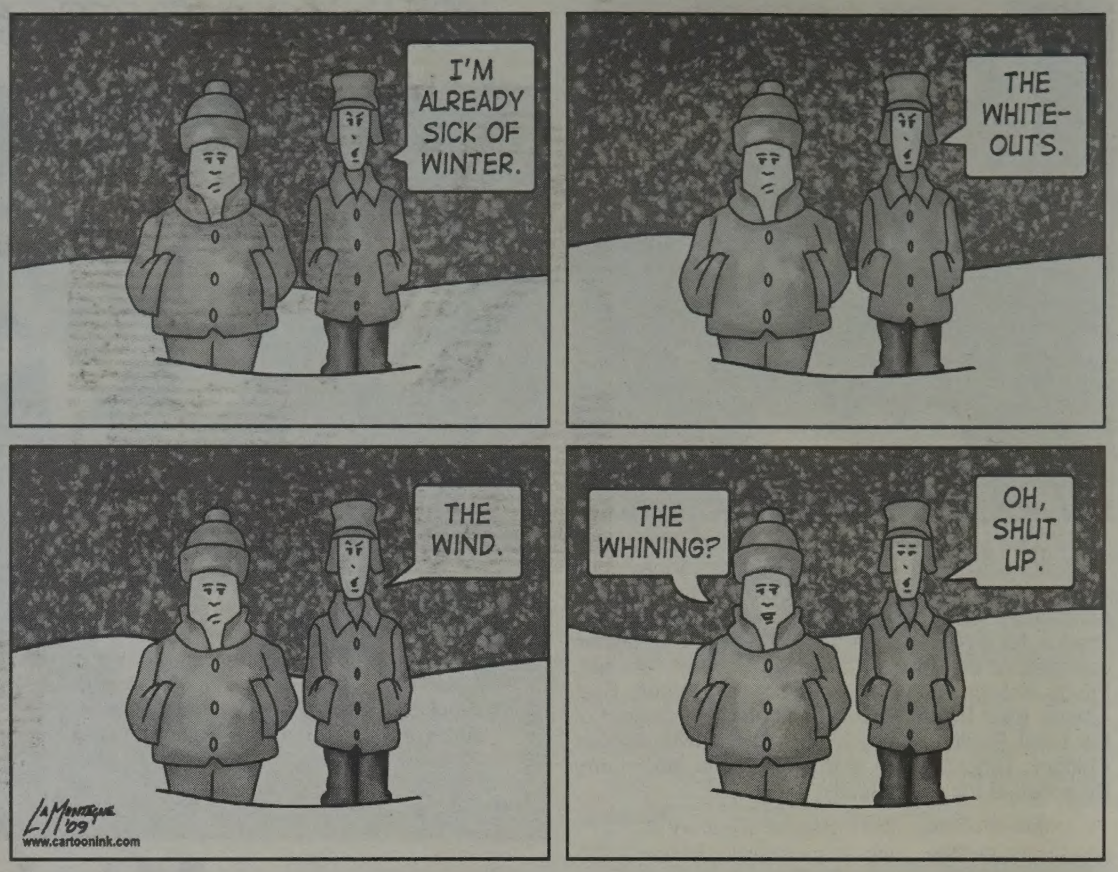
In the first issue of 2008, we pondered what industry and finance would do for an encore, after bringing oil prices above $100 and the Canadian dollar above par. Their encore amazed and then horrified everyone, as both soared to unbelievable levels, and then took a dive.

Our own predictions were at least half right. While the first phase of the north subdivision is still not full and the expansion of the industrial subdivision haven't happened yet, the David Thompson Bicentennial Brigade was a huge hit and brought us a new tourist attraction, and yes, many local people did vacation closer to home, and want to do it again.

This brave new year could indeed see those first two predictions proceed at a slow but steady pace, while at the other edge of town, the eco centre and new fire hall will bring the former railway siding back to life. The Allied Arts Centre will prove to be another of those facilities like the C. G. Baker Arena - a massive people-magnet that we wonder how we ever did without.

The oil patch may take a short winter's nap, but history has shown its ability to bounce back and be just as busy as ever. More new homes will become a reality, both in the Centennial Drive area and in the place of old, decrepit buildings that no longer fill a family's needs.

And the dollar? That one is anybody's guess.



Way Back When...

Hearts of gold, huge support, town digs deep

Here's the news that made the headlines of the Elk Point Review and the Lakeland Review for the week of January 6 in...

1989

Hearts of solid gold were recognized by Air Canada, the Canadian Community Newspapers Association, the Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association and the Lakeland Review, with certificates and pins going to Ruth Vogel, Violet McFadyen, Marnie McCowan, Elaine Etherington, Ron Barwick and Laverne Wilson. Elk Point Hospital's Christmas baby, Constance Merkel, arrived Dec. 28 and received a gift from Hospital Auxiliary representative Theresa McCuaig.

1994

Ray Danyluk's junior high girls' basketball team enjoyed their sport so much that they spent several afternoons of their Christmas holidays on the court, perfecting their techniques ready for the upcoming season. Dave's Pizza, Woody's Trophy and Gifts and the Empress Restaurant were announced as the prize winners in the commercial division of the Christmas lighting and decorating competition.

1999

Massive support was shown for Elk Point Health Care Centre, with a 1096-signature petition accompanying a brief sent to the consulting firm conducting a review of Lakeland Regional Health Authority facilities, and more than 300 people cramming the Elks Hall for an information meeting regarding the retention of services. Local singer and songwriter Travis Pankiw wowed the crowd as he launched his first CD recording.

2004

A very expensive water main break at the corner of 50 Ave. and 47 St. was a costly end to 2003 for the Town of Elk Point and left the industrial subdivision without water from before Christmas until Dec. 30, with a massive hole left to be filled in New Year's Eve. F. G. Miller Grade 12s were gearing up for new-style exams which would start a week earlier than usual.

Guest Column

Ukrainian Christmas Eve

deanna EASTHOPE
from the FCSS desk

For the Ukrainian people Christmas is the most important family holiday of the whole year. It is celebrated solemnly, as well as merrily, according to ancient customs that have come down through the ages and are still observed today.

Ukrainian Christmas festivities begin on Christmas Eve (Jan. 6) and end on the Feast of the Epiphany. The Christmas Eve Supper or Sviata Vecheria (Holy Supper) brings the family together to partake in special foods and begin the holiday with many customs and traditions, which reach back to antiquity. The rituals of the Christmas Eve are dedicated to God, to the welfare of the family, and to the remembrance of the ancestors.

With the appearance of the first star which is believed to be the Star of Bethlehem, the family gathers to begin supper. The table is covered with two tablecloths, one for the ancestors of the family, the second for the living members. In pagan times ancestors were considered to be benevolent spirits, who, when properly respected, brought good fortune to the living family members. Under the table, as well as under the tablecloths some hay is spread to remember that Christ was born in a manger. The table always has one extra place-setting for the deceased family members, whose souls, according to belief, come on Christmas Eve and partake of the food.

A kolach (Christmas bread) is placed in the center of the table. The bread is braided into a ring, and three such rings are placed one on top of the other, with a candle in the center of the top one. The three rings symbolize the Trinity and the circular form represents Eternity.

A didukh (meaning grandfather) is a sheaf of wheat stalks or made of mixed grain stalks. It is placed under the icons in the house. In Ukraine, this is a very important Christmas tradition, because the stalks of grain symbolize all the ancestors of the family, and it is believed that their spirits reside in it during the holidays.

After the didukh is positioned in the place of honor, the father or head of the household places a bowl of kutia (boiled wheat mixed with poppy seeds and honey) next to it. Kutia is the most important food of the entire Christmas Eve Supper, and is also called God's Food. A jug of uzvar (stewed fruits, which should contain twelve different fruits) and is called God's Drink, is also served.

After all the preparations have been completed, the father offers each member of the family a piece of bread dipped in honey, which had been previously blessed in church. He then leads the family in prayer. After the prayer the father extends his best wishes to everyone with the greeting, "Khrystos Razhdaietsia (Christ is born)", and the family sits down to a twelve-course meatless Christmas Eve Supper

There are twelve courses in the Supper, because according to the Christian tradition each course is dedicated to one of Christ's Apostles. The first course is always kutia. It is the main dish of the whole supper. Then comes borscht (beet soup) with vushka (boiled dumplings filled with chopped mushrooms and onions). This is followed by a variety of fish – baked, broiled, fried, cold in aspic, fish balls, marinated herring and so on. Then comes varenyky (boiled dumplings filled with cabbage, potatoes, buckwheat grains, or prunes. There are also holubtsi (stuffed cabbage), and the supper ends with uzvar. ... To all our Ukrainian friends, we respect your traditions and wish you a Merry Christmas.

The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.

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5022 - 49 Avenue, Elk Point, AB

Mailing Address:
Box 309, Elk Point, Alberta T0A 1A0
or Box 159, St. Paul, Alberta T0A 3A0

Publisher: Clare Gauvreau **Editor:** Vicki Brooker
Email Address: production@stpaul.greatwest.ca

Vicki Brooker
EDITOR

Melanie McRae
SALES
FRONT DESK

Doug Basset
SPORTS

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Petition deemed insufficient

(Continued from Front Page)

And although the petition was deemed insufficient, Reeve Robert Bouchard was adamant about saying he felt the issue was still an important one, and that it was an issue council should not dismiss.

"I don't believe we should dismiss it," said Bouchard, after council passed a motion to file the petition as information. He also mentioned that he felt the best way to proceed with the reeve at large issue would be to allow electors to discuss it, then ask a specific question regarding the issue at the next municipal election.

"It's a major decision, and it's up to (the ratepayers) to make that decision," said Coun. Frank Sloan.

"There was widespread support across the county," said Amil Shapka, a member of A Better County Democracy, the group heading the petition. He added that he was disappointed to hear the petition was found to be insufficient.

After receiving the petition, Mahdiuk thoroughly went through the document according to the guidelines set out in the MGA. The first condition was that at least 10 per cent of the county's population must sign the document, which meant 593 signatures were needed. In four weeks, those organizing the petition collected about 675 names.

The purpose statement for the petition was required to be printed on every page of the document, along with the signed names, printed names, legal land descriptions of those signing the petition.

The date was also required, along with witness signatures and witnesses were required to sign affidavits.

After deeming the petition insufficient, council was given two options. They could either dismiss the petition because it was deemed insufficient, or they could proceed and implement what the petition was asking for.

Bouchard felt that council should appreciate the fact that there were over 600 names of people that showed interest in the issue, and "to me that's an intent certainly." And although Bouchard said he felt the petition may have started on a personal note, he also believed that the majority of people who signed it felt a discussion was warranted on the subject.

At an election forum held during the last municipal election in 2007, the reeve at large topic was brought up.

"I believe at that time I said . . . I felt it was something the ratepayers need to discuss," said Bouchard. He also added that he felt if there was sufficient interest, he would certainly be in favour of having a good discussion about it.

Many council members expressed concern over holding a plebiscite on the issue.

"You certainly wouldn't get the turnout," said Bouchard, adding, most municipalities that have faced the issue have asked the question to electors during a municipal election to ensure a "better discussion in all areas of the county."

Coun. Ockerman also felt that asking the question during a municipal election would allow electors to make an informed decision. The cost to hold a plebiscite is about $30,000, along with a large amount of staff time.

After discussing the issue, Sloan made a motion for a notice of motion to bring the issue forward at council's next meeting. Sloan would like to come up with a specific question to ask electors at the next election.

"This isn't the first time the subject comes up," said Sloan.

But according to Shapka, electors will be able to once again offer their support on the issue in the New Year, as a new petition will begin circulating possibly by the end of January. Shapka explained that the group knew all the names on the petition were eligible, but because of some minor mistakes – most notably legal land descriptions that didn't exactly match tax assessments – many names on the petition were discarded.

"So we're going to reorganize in January," he said, and this time, even more attention will be spent nitpicking the details.

"I know the support is there," said Shapka.

Chamber meeting delayed

By Vicki Brooker
Review Staff

A busy January has led the Elk Point Chamber of commerce to move their first meeting of 2009 back another week to Wednesday, Jan 21, which would normally be their second meeting date of the month.

However, due to a joint meeting of the town and county councils that evening, the meeting will be held at 12 noon rather than the usual 6 p.m.

Businesses, board contribute to Allied Arts Centre

Photos Submitted

Two local businesses had Elk Point's Allied Arts Centre on their Christmas lists, with generous contributions toward the new facility. Debbie Hahn of Hahn Welding presented the first half of a $10,000 donation to Allied Arts Society president Don Conrad, (above), while Victor Stepa of Elk Point Insurance presented a $2,500 donation.

President Rusty Smith and vice president Erwin Thompson of the North Eastern Alberta Real Estate Board recently presented a $1,000 donation to the Elk Point Regional Allied Arts Society, which was accepted by Allied Arts president Don Conrad.

Photos submitted

Resolve to keep your heart healthier in 2009

While you're making New Year's resolutions, don't forget about your heart health.

Follow these five important heart-healthy tips:

1. Try and avoid rich, high-fat foods and binge drinking - High-sugar or high-fat foods place stress on the heart as they are digested and binge drinking can produce problems like high blood pressure and abnormal heart rhythms.

2. Make regular physical activity part of your winter routine - Physical activity can help maintain a healthy weight, reduce high blood pressure, lower cholesterol, manage stress and cut your risk of heart disease and stroke.

3. Be aware of outdoor activities that can put stress on the heart - People underestimate just how strenuous shoveling snow can be. The increase in physical activity requires your heart to work harder and cold temperatures can increase the viscosity, or thickness, of circulating blood.

4. Understand the signs of a heart attack - It is common for people to initially shrug off chest pain as indigestion. Educate yourself and your friends and family on the signs of a heart attack. Visit www.makingtheconnection.ca to find out warning signs of a heart attack, calculate your heart age to find out if you're at risk, and sign up for Making the Connection's 5-Step program, a personalized action plan for your heart health.

5. Take time to relax and stay positive - At any time of the year, stress can affect the heart, but the winter season can be particularly stressful for people with many commitments. Take some quiet time for yourself or participate in a yoga class. Above all, stay positive!

THANK YOU

The Community Lions of Elk Point thanks everybody who purchased a Trip of the Month Club ticket for 2008. Proceeds from your tickets will go towards local recreation facilities, sports teams, schools, medical needs, health care support groups, Lions International, and/or emergency programs.

All of the draws have been made for 2008, and the lucky winners are:

January: Christy Lee - Nassau, Bahamas; Amanda Frisby / Patrick Marcoux - $100; Edna Tymchuk - $100

February: Laverne & Doris Wilson – Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Rose & Doris Pindroch - $100; Jolene Croteau - $100

March: Sandra & Dennis Cameron – Laughlin, Nevada; Kris Lechelt - $100 & $100

April: Colette Orr – Victoria, B.C.; Urbain Bussiere - $100; Sheri Phillips - $100

May: Sheila Nelson – Palm Springs, California; Nicole Leroux - $100; Mike & Lana MacDonald - $100

June: Gary Nielsen – Alaskan cruise; Terry Shankowski - $100; Jason Hayman - $100

July: Ryan & Tori Hornbacher – Fawcett Lake & Peerless Lake; Garrett Wirachowsky - $100; Alexandria Skawronski-Munro - $100

August: Karen Stafford – London, England; Dale & Dalene Pinder - $100; Agnes & Lorne Madu - $100

September: Shirley Harms – Salt Spring Island, B.C.; Raymond & Shauna Lapierre - $100; Travis Kavalec - $100

October: George Hahn – Disneyland, California; Kim Saranchuk - $100; Shane Hamelin - $100

November: Brandi & Lyndon Krankowsky – Jasper, Alberta; Kay Warawa - $100; Agnes & Lorne Madu - $100

December: Grace Kinjerski – Punta Cana, Dominican Republic; Erna Holliday - $100; Rhonda & Bill Robson - $100

OBITUARY

RANDALL (CRAIG), Alys

On January 2, 2009, Alys Randall of Elk Point passed away peacefully at the age of 90 years.

She will be lovingly remembered by her children, Dixie Thomson of Calgary, Darlene Lalonde of Derwent, Dawn (Henny) Bruins of Elk Point, Dalyse Osguthorpe of Red Deer, Tammy Osguthorpe (Roy) of Trochu, Frank Osguthorpe (Shirley) of Derwent, David Osguthorpe of Williams Lake, B.C. & Jolene Hallock (Bernie) of Rocky Mountain House; also numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; Linda and staff of Cold Lake Long Term Care. Alys was predeceased by her husband, Fraser Osguthorpe, parents, siblings, sons-in-law, Marcel Lalonde and Dave Thomson.

\A gathering will be held to celebrate Alys's life in the spring of 2009 at Pine Lake, Alberta. If desired, donations may be made to the charity of one's choice c/o Box 425, St. Paul, AB T0A 3A0

Yewchin's Funeral Chapel Ltd. St. Paul. 1-780-645-5177.

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130. Coming Events

BE THE BIGGEST online looser of 2009! Cash prizes, 12 week nutritional course. Personal coaching. Visit www.ronsonli-newlc.com or call 403-675-4444.

190. Announcements

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200. Business/Invest. Oppor.

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300. Lost & Found

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410. Education/Training

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1005. Help Wanted

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1005. Help Wanted

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9005. Personals

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THE SABBATH DAY shalt thou keep holy. Remember, sanctify and rest. For God has hallowed to his glory the Sabbath, which he blest. - Author unknown. C.L.D.A. Box 1369, Picture Butte, T0K 1V0.

Library reopens Friday

Elk Point Municipal Library, along with other libraries in the Northern Lights Library System, has had an extra long holiday break this year, as new technology is installed to streamline service. The new integrated library system (ILS) will offer enhanced features to borrowers, including access to the province-wide TRACpac online catalogue.

The library will reopen Friday, Jan 9.

The library's first Seniors' Tea of 2009 is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 14 at 2 p.m. All seniors welcome!

Resolve to eat healthier for the New Year

A commitment to healthier eating is always near the top of the list of popular New Year's resolutions. Not surprisingly, it's also one of the hardest vows to keep. While intentions are good, willpower can waver after the first few days. An eating strategy that includes cooking dishes that are lower in fat yet rich in flavour and nutrients can help keep you motivated.

"Sometimes we need to be reminded that healthy eating doesn't mean we have to sacrifice taste and flavour," says Kimberly Green, registered dietitian with Pork Marketing Canada. She suggests keeping your New Year's enthusiasm for healthy eating alive throughout the year by using these mouth-watering ways to add flavour while maintaining low fat:

* Choose lean: All fresh trimmed pork cuts, except ribs, are 'extra-lean' (7.5% fat or less).
* Give it a trim: Trim visible fat from meat.
*Rack it up: Grill, broil or roast on a rack so any fat can naturally drip away.
*Add flavour: Create marinades from citrus juices, vinegars, low fat salad dressings or soy sauce.
*Give it a rub: Zesty herbs and spices add taste without calories and fat.
*Pair wisely: Pair pork with seasonal fruits and vegetables to tantalize the taste buds.
*Portion control: One serving of meat is about the size of a deck of cards.

Canada's Food Guide recommends that adults eat two to three servings per day from the meat and alternatives food group, and that they choose leaner meats, like pork, more often. In fact, there are 10 common cuts of pork including roasts, chops, loins and steaks that have only six grams of fat or less per 100g serving.

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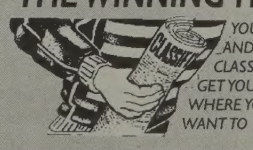

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Back through the pages of '08

(Continued from PAge 2)

Another great Farmers Day was enjoyed at Stoney Lake, with wagon rides, music, a barbecue lunch and 25-cent ice cream all wrapping up just hours before a deluge of rain dampened the 4-H windup barbecue across the lake. Senior athletes of the year Tyson Proskiw and Taylor Jenner and junior athletes of the year Brendan Bishop and Katie Maennchen were among those whose achievements were recognized at F. G. Miller's sports awards banquet.

Many, many memories were shared at the Elk Point Hospital Reunion, which brought together close to 140 former and present employees for an afternoon of reminiscing, browsing through albums of photos and tours of the health centre. Elk Point Regional Allied Arts Society got a $15,000 boost for their Allied Arts Centre from Canadian Natural Resources.

July

Good citizenship was stressed at Elk Point Elementary School's awards day, where Brayden Vinge received the St. Paul Education Regional Division No. 1's Grade 6 academic achievement award and 60 students qualified for academic honours. Town council learned that Elk Point is to be one of the stops on an extensive adventure race in May 2009, which will begin and end in St. Paul.

"Do not go where the path may lead – go instead where there is no path and leave a trail," was the theme for F. G. Miller's Class of 2008, as they celebrated their graduation, with Erin Lindquist as valedictorian. Canada Day saw record crowds and new events, including the Canada Day Idol competition, a history display and an art show, and featured multicultural entertainment at the afternoon stage show.

Canada Day's huge crowds sparked plans for changes, with a different lineup location to streamline the parade, modification of parade judging categories, and new locations for some of the events. Elk Point residents definitely got in the patriotic spirit while decorating their yards for the big birthday bash, making it very difficult for judges to determine the winners.

A saskatoon bake-off proved to be a huge attraction at Fort George and Buckingham House when the historic site hosted its annual Saskatoon Festival. Signage and street repairs were on town council's summer agenda.

The Tier II Midget Baseball provincials hosted by Elk Point Minor Ball were dedicated to the memory of former Sox player Timmy Quinney, whose brothers Devin and Myles took part in the ceremonial opening pitch. The Sox went undefeated through round robin play and ended up with the silver medals after a very challenging game against Rycroft Rage.

Mayor Parrish Tung and town Coun. Mark Gormley presented roses to Coun. Bernice Capjack, who chaired the David Thompson Bicentennial committee, County of St. Paul Coun. Tom Kurek and MLA Ray Danyluk, all who helped to make Capjack's dream of a North Saskatchewan River viewing deck a reality.

August

A river access trail at Fort George and Buckingham House historic site offered protection to both archaeology and ecology, replacing a trail that crossed the Fort George site and was prone to erosion. A rash of vandalism, including incidents involving a late-night 'light whacker,' concerned town council, who agreed it may be time to reinstate the COPS program.

First time entrant Delores Mohyluk won section awards in baking, vegetables, house plants and flowers on her way to the Grand Aggregate win, with Millie Orr placing second in the Grand Aggregate race. Friends and partners of Frog Lake First Nation were honoured guests at their powwow, where John Lau, president and CEO of Husky Oil, was named honorary chief and took part in the signing of an historic consultation and protocol agreement with Chief George Stanley.

Elk Point Oilmen's Association hosted their 25th annual golf tournament, where Art Lypka was honoured as the only golfer to have taken part in all 25, and Norm Quinney III was presented with the championship trophy. The County of St. Paul continued to debate the use of multiple RVs on lake lots.

The magnificent view of the North Saskatchewan River valley was admired by all who attended the official opening of the viewing deck at the river campground, fulfilling the vision by Coun. Bernice Capjack, who proposed the deck while making plans for the David Thompson Brigade visit, Local seniors Del Smith, Liz Poitras, Ernie Poitras and Gordon Stitch brought home medals from the Zone 7 Summer Mini Games.

Proud Canadians stood at attention as Girl Guide Madison MacDonald raised the flag on July 1.

September

Groundwork began for Elk Point's new welcome sign near the Peter Fidler statue, which would replace the 1980-vintage concrete sign that had been damaged by a runaway vehicle. Local vocalist Brianne Greening and season-leading junior barrel racer Caitlin Brooks were among the competitors in St. Paul, where a talent show was one of the events leading up to the Lakeland Rodeo Association Showdown finals.

History was music to the ears as performers flocked to the Forts des Prairies Jamboree, winding up a very successful season at Fort George and Buckingham House. With an artist's concept in hand and grant funding expected to arrive shortly, chamber of commerce president Sandy Smith said fundraising was ready to get underway for the proposed Eco Centre.

The Grandparents' Day walk raised $4,753, with Peggy Maas again the top fundraiser, bringing in $1,205 to assist the local Seniors' Recreation Centre to cope with utility costs and to help African grandparents raising grandchildren orphaned by AIDS, One of the best-attended Information Nights ever packed the Elks Hall with area residents eager to learn about services, programs and upcoming events.

A huge circus-size tent was the location of the Northern Lights Library System's 2008 conference, with renovations well underway in the usual location, which would become the new Allied Arts Centre. Elk Point Chamber of Commerce set the final Friday in November as Christmas Extravaganza date not only for 2008, but for following years as well.

(Continued on Page 8)

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doug **BASSETT**
Review Sports

Out with the old and in with the new. The **Peewee Avalanche** sure hope that old New Year's saying is true. The Avalanche haven't had a lot to celebrate this season. Playing in tier two of the North East League, they were right on the bubble and should have been re-tiered, dropping down into tier three, but the league decided to keep them in tier two, so they had no choice but to take their lumps and have had many one-sided games, unfortunately always on the losing side of things, but maybe that's behind them now, let's hope anyway.

The Peewees busted out on Sunday afternoon with an avalanche of goals when they hosted Saddle Lake. The game was tied three-all half way through the second period when they took the lead on a goal by the big center man Davis "Hippie" Desjarlais, who scored a hat trick in the game, and once they got a little taste of blood, they circled in for the kill and there was no holding them back. Seven unanswered goals in the second period after the ten minute mark, 17 goals total for the Avalanche who won their first game of the season. Colin "Naz Jr." Nazarchuk putting on a clinic, turned a few defenseman inside out with a "how's she going?" scoring five goals, Jarred "Snipes" McGilvery with two lovely goals, both of them nice wrist shots upstairs, Rylan Buffalo with two hard blasts from the point, Brandon "Snake" Garrett with a couple more, D-man MacKenzie "King" Roberts doing a great job forechecking and backchecking and adding one, Nathan "Pitbull" Yarmuch with a nice one-timer from the slot, and the final tally by "Too Tall" Tell May, the rushing defenseman, burying one to cap off the game, 17 to 4 the final score. Defenseman Dustin Demers did a swell job of carrying the puck out of the Avalanche zone with a couple of helpers, first time player Terrence Gadwa with an assist as well. The goaltending tandem of Han Lo Pittlejon and Brandon Bourne, were doing an awesome job of keeping the puck out and showing lots of improvement, thanks to the pointers they received from their newly hired goaltending coach John "Jed" Charlton.

Just as exciting, but much closer in score, the **Atom Avalanche** played a barn burner on Saturday against Cold Lake, the final score 11 to 10 for the Avalanche. Leading the pack with seven goals and two assists was sniper Brodin Ference, a first time player in the right spot at the right time, hanging out at the side of the net with his stick down and looking very much like a natural goal scorer was Brian Bazian sinking two, a two-way player showing some great speed going hard in both directions, Jewel Poitras with one, with his long strides and reach it's going to be hard to stop Dylan "the big O" Odgaard with a hat trick and three assists, solid on defense, Amy Harms, adding an assist and some great defense as well coming from Chansie Botting and Taylor Pankiw. Between the pipes, goalie Brodie Odgaard came up with some big game saving stops in the final few minutes before the buzzer to give the Avalanche the two points.

On Sunday morning the Atoms traveled to Marwayne where they were a little shorthanded on the bench and came up a little short on the score sheet as well, Brodin Ference with a hat trick, Dylan Odgaard and Brian Bazian adding singles. Another solid game behind the mask for Brodie Odgaard and Amy Harms on the D.

Hey, Don Cherry would be proud, this is what hockey is all about, eh! On a wicked cold Saturday morning (-40 at 7 a.m.) eight **Micro Novice Tornadoes** ventured out early to Dewberry, a place that ranks up there with the top 10 coldest barns in the province I'm sure, playing in a tournament there. Dylan Ference and Wolke Cueva with hat tricks in the first game against Marwayne, Devon Nazarchuk scoring his first two goals ever. In their second game against Kitscoty, Dylan Ference and Wolke Cueva with another set of hat trick's each.

These guys are a lot older and have been at it longer, but Saturday night was no picnic either (another -40 night) when the **Bantam Avalanche** hosted the top team in the league Paradise Hill, in a losing battle, Waylon "Willy" May scoring his first of the year assisted by Jamie "Fuzzy" Wozniak and Michael Abraham, Matthew "Bruise Brother" Jenner also scoring, "Fuzzy" assisting on this one as well.

Nothing like going right down to the wire, the Canadian junior team scoring with only 5.4 seconds on the clock to send the game to OT, the juniors winning of course in a shoot out. Hopefully we have another gold medal by the time you read this.

Happy birthdays today to ex Midget Storm player Catherine "the Great" Campbell and her coach George Hahn, who was behind the bench for many years. And a big happy 14th birthday tomorrow to the hard nosed blue liner from the bantam team, Brett "the Moose" Ockerman

And now for the K.A. Campbell quote of the week. "There will be no 'Miracle on Ice' this time around. There won't even be a Darn Nice Try." Last week's answer to: "This team never quits. Now, if it can just start winning." – Todd Marchant Do you have any scoops? Now you can email them to sportshound007@hotmail.com

Back through the pages of '08

(Continued from Page 7)

The students and staff of F. G, Miller High School once again joined a devastated family to mourn the loss of a Grad 12 student, when Students Union president Katja Brand died in a highway rollover. Town council was asked by nearby residents to reconsider their proposed fire hall site near the west end of the former CN railway siding, due to concerns with noise and traffic.

October

Elk Point United Church was filled with gratitude as the community gathered to give thanks for the Elk Point Volunteer Firefighters and their service to the community, with the firefighters participating in the special service. Stakeholders from library boards and staff in communities across northeast Alberta met with a committee of MLAs to help define the future of libraries in one of a series of sessions held across the province.

Elementary students learned the keys to success from educator and magician Steve Harmer in a workshop entitled 'Motivational Magic.' Homicide charges were laid against Judith Babcock after her husband Murray was found dead from a gunshot wound in their home.

Neighbours whose property abutted parcels of municipal reserve land in the west subdivision came to town council to ask that the property be left as it was, rather than changed to narrow walkways and residential lots. MP Brian Storseth garnered more than 70 per cent of the vote in the Westlock – St. Paul federal riding.

The many partners, including contributors and the fundraising committee, who came together to purchase a new Zamboni for the A. G. Ross Arena were treated to an appreciation night celebrating the project's completion. Mayor Parrish Tung and chamber of commerce vice president Lesia Porcina were happy to accept a $182,906 cheque toward the Eco Centre, which MLA Ray Danyluk said in making the presentation, "is all about community."

November

The mood was both happy and sad at the Regional Allied Arts Society annual meeting, as members heard that renovations to their new centre were nearing completion, and bid goodbye to the organization's treasurer, Kim Heyman. Recreation headed the agenda at town council's November meeting, where Doug Bassett proposed a partnership between the town and the A. G. Ross Arena Operating Committee, to offer incentives to arena staff.

F. G. Miller Grade 12 students lit banks of candles for their updated Remembrance Day observances, presenting videotaped interviews with veterans and recognizing World War II veteran Ralph Riemer and his wartime bride Niki in appreciation for their attendance. Elk Point United Church roasted countless turkeys and fed a capacity crowd at their annual fall supper.

Ninety years to the day after the guns fell silent to end World War I, a huge crowd packed the Seniors' Recreation Centre after commemorative wreaths were laid at the cenotaph on Remembrance Day. Elk Point Heathcare Centre won a provincial Healthy U award of merit for their efforts to provide a healthy workplace for their employees.

Robert Hendriks launched his biography of William Bleasdell Cameron, whose "Life of writing and adventure" included surviving the Frog Lake uprising of the Northwest Rebellion in 1885. Former MLA Paul Langevin was remembered for his contributions to the area, following his passing on Nov. 11 at the age of 66.

December

Elk Point's Christmas Extravaganza was a big hit with businesses and shoppers alike, bringing out good crowds to enjoy new attractions including an art show and sale, children's activities and entertainment which included several Canada Day Idol contestants. Five local churches joined in the Christmas Cantata, this year hosted by St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church.

Stakeholder groups met to plan the future of the Iron Horse Trail staging area, with a number of great ideas put forward, and economic development coordinator Bob Bezpalko very pleased with the results. Town council agreed it was time to consider an in-town recycling depot.

Concerts, a dance recital and the annual high school brunch were all packed into the weeks leading up to Christmas, as another year drew to a close.

Shepherds celebrated the birth of the Saviour at the Elk Point Christian Community Church's Nativity pageant.

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